(b) if so, whether it is a fact that Indian cellular operators were offering the lowest tariffs in the world despite prohibitive regulatory costs which are highest in the world;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI) on behalf of Cellular Operators have made the claim of offering the lowest tariffs for the Service. The licence fee being charged from Cellular Operators has been fixed after obtaining recommendations from Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). At present, the Cellular Mobile Telephone Service Providers are required to pay licence fees as 12%, 10% and 8% of Adjusted Gross Revenue (AGR) for category *A', *B' & 'C Service Areas respectively, apart from charges for use of wireless frequency spectrum.

(c) and (d) TRAI is responsible for fixation for tariffs for Telecom Services in India including Cellular Mobile Telephone Service (CMTS). As per the information provided by TRAI, at present, Cellular Operators in Incia have more than 300 tariff packages in the market. It is extremely difficult to compare cellular tariffs in India with those in other countries because of the large number of tariff packages and these vary significantly between developing and developed countries. Comparison is also rendered difficult because of varying exchange rates and differences in purchasing power across countries. However, the cellular mobile tariffs in India are among the low tariffs world-wide.

Electronic telephone exchanges

1672. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the electronic telephone exchanges set up in Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal and rJER during the last three years;

(b) the details of the funds earmarked, disbursed and utilised so far for the said purpose during this period; and

(c) the details of the plan formulated for setting up of more electronic telephone exchanges in tiiese States during the Tenth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE [MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN) : (a) The details of electronic telephone exchanges set up in Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttaranchal and the NER during the last three years are given in the Statement. *[See* belovi/)

(b) and (c) The requisite information is being colier;ted any reply vviK be laid on the Table of the house.

Statement

Details of electronic Telephone Exchanges set up during the last three years

SI. No.	State	No. of electronic Telephone Exchanges set up during the years		
		1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002
1	Uttar Pradesh	407	477	262
2	Orissa	71	133	74
3	Madhya Pradesh	95	101	144
4	Bihar	100	251	117
5	Jharkhand	36	56	25
6	Uttranchal	22	29	18
7	North East Region	97	108	83
	TOTAL	828	1155	723

Teledensity through WLL Technology

1673. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether It is a fact that there is possibility to increase teledensity through WLL technology at comparatively lesser cost than the fixed telephone lines;